## ASHTON-upon-MERSEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. Charles J. Renshaw.

Population at Census, 1891 - 4243.

Estimated population in middle of 1899 - 5300.

Area in acres - 1622.

Birth rate per 1000 living - 26.9

Death rate per 1000 living - 13.5

Death rate from seven principal Zymotic diseases - 2.6

Deaths under one year to 1000 births - 153.8

Total number of births - 143

Total number of deaths - 72, of which there are 9 between 60 and 70, 10 over 70 and 2 over 80. Under one year - 22, of which 8 are premature births, 6 deaths from infectious diseases; typhoid, erysipelas, whooping cough and measles, one each, puerperal fever, two.

Cases of infectious diseases notified -

Measles 110. Scarlet fever 25. Erysipelas 10.

Whooping cough 19. Typhoid fever 4. Roetheln 2.

Diphtheria 1. Puerperal fever 2. Total 173.

Of Diphtheria and roetheln there were so few cases, that there is no need of mentioning them further, their return as long

as they exist at all is satisfactory. Scarlet fever is slightly in excess of the number of cases for 1898, but the cases were sporadic and arose from many outside infections, there was no spread of the disease. Of Whooping cough the same is to be said. Tyhpoid fever, there were only four cases notified, two of the houses in which it occurred were structurally in fault, these houses have been altered in conformance with present requirements. Erysipelas numbers 10 cases, they were of mixed type and came accidentally. Measles were reported towards the end of August, but did not appear in any serious number of cases until towards the end of September, when it attacked the children attending the infant school of St. Mary Magdalen, and it was deemed necessary to close the school, from that date comparatively few cases have occurred and I have little doubt the epidemic was checked by promptly closing those schools. Other infections of measles were imported from Broadheath, Stretford and Essex, but did not affect many, the village of Ashton kept almost free. Diarrhoea is not a reportable disease, eight deaths are returned as arising from that cause. From phthisis only three deaths are returned. Influenza gives four deaths.

The isolation hospital at Baguley is slowly and gradually becoming a certainty of the future, we can only hope at some time hence to have it for use.

The Manchester Corporation selected the neighbourhood of

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Carrington Moss for its small pox hospital, at present that is only in idea, much will have to be said and done before the hospital is really built.

Nuisance abatement:

26 closets converted into water closets.

8 Privy closets altered in structure.

20 ashpits altered and filled up.

New pails to sundry closets.

Drains altered, relayed, renewed, and new drains provided to 47 houses.

Moss Lane sewer extended during the year.

Dumber Lane sewer laid.

Plans passed during the year:

9 shops and dwelling houses.

55 Dwelling houses.

3 additions to dwellings.

1 Schoolroom.

1 Stable, &c.,

6 Sundries.

One hundred and seventy inspections have been made during the year and advice given.

The sewers were kept flushed during the hot and dry weather.

The Cheshire water supply in this district is excellent in quality.

Arrangements have been made for bacteriological examination for diphtheria and typhoid fever at Owens College Laboratory.

The willow beds are acting very well and your Authority is always placed well in the list showing the purification of sewage before entering the river.

The tips in the neighbourhood are kept free from nuisance and as far as possible covered with grass, many trees have been planted between us and Stretford, these must conduce to the prevention of smell and nuisance. Arrangements have been made with Mr. Nuttall, by which eight beech trees in Glebelands Road remain after the widening of the road and become the property of the Authority.

Such is the report of the sanitary state of this Authority and of work done for the year 1899.

Will you allow me to express my deep regret at the loss of my chief Sir Richard Thorn, the head of the Sanitary department of the Local board, not only a personal friend but a friend and adviser to all engaged in sanitary work, he has gone but his battle cry into which he has infused so many of the spirits of England's bravest, and also not as a soldier in the common sense of the word yet is he fitting company for such, for he fought a brave and continued fight against premature death.